

Two Ships In World War II Named After Torrance, Records Reveal

The City of Torrance, distinguished among California cities, had two ships afloat in World War II named in her honor, according to maritime and Navy records.

One was the S. S. Torrance Hills, built and launched at the yards of the Marinship Corporation in Northern California, and the other was the U. S. S. Torrance, a Navy combat and troopship, constructed by Bethlehem Steel Co., and commissioned November 18, 1944, at Hoboken, New Jersey.

The Torrance Hills was an oil tanker, built to haul much needed petroleum supplies to troops overseas, and named for Torrance as one of the many California fields supplying the crude for high test gasoline and other products so essential to the war effort.

The U. S. S. Torrance was a cargo-troop ship which had a glorious record from the time she was commissioned on the east coast.

On October 23, 1945, she sailed into and successfully fought a five-day hurricane off Cape Hatteras; she came through the canal and her crew listened to the Tennessee-Southern California game on January 1, 1945, as she passed Santa Barbara.

Then she went immediately to war.

First general quarters was on February 26, 1945, near Tacloban, in an engagement which cost the Torrance guns.

Engaged in cargo-troop carrying operations April 2, 1945, in the area and at Okinawa, the Torrance shot down two Japanese suicide planes, its review of the news shows.

She was alongside the U. S. S. Comfort, hospital ship, April 27, 1945, when she was struck.

She arrived at Saipan May 5, 1945, with the B-29s, and was at Guam August 14 when the war

Area Men Are Reelected To Scouting Jobs

E. R. Stephenson, of the Moneta Water Co., Torrance, was reelected chairman of the Harbor District Boy Scout Council at the annual meeting held in San Pedro Thursday night.

Other officers include George P. Noonan, manager of the J. C. Penney Co. store in Torrance, organization and extension chairman; Bernard A. Dean, Wilmington, advancement; Dr. B. N. Robinson, San Pedro, health and safety; William M. Waterman, San Pedro, camping and activities; and Frank Delgado, acting district Scout executive.

Division commissioners are Gerald N. Emerson, Torrance, and Eugene B. Morey, San Pedro. District commissioner is Leonard M. Pitsenberger, Gardena, and Walter C. Silence, Torrance, is assistant. Neighborhood commissioners are Stephen A. C. Turner, and C. Haggard, of Torrance; Ray Kerner, Richard C. Jackson, Ralph B. Lighthart, Ralph S. Ollish, Tom Watkins and Charles Robertson.

Guests included H. L. Rush, Los Angeles field service director, and W. T. Lindsay, Los Angeles assistant Scout executive.

Stephenson announced that harbor Scout units had increased from 49 to 55 since January, 1945, and membership from 1645 to 1715.

He stated that during the summer months 21 troops with a total of 930 Scouts and senior Scouts and 57 leaders attended long term and week end camps for a total of 2210 camper-days. The year-around camping record for the harbor district, Stephenson added, amounted to "1665 boys for a total of 5050 camper-days."

Two Bungalows For Harbor City School Ordered

Board of education plans to erect two 24x38 foot bungalow additions to the Harbor City elementary school at a total cost of \$9,000 are on file at the building permit office in San Pedro.

The plans submitted by A. S. Nibecker, Jr., building supervisor, call for wood siding with composition roofing. Work on the projects are expected to get under way as soon as materials are available.

Other building permits issued for the Los Angeles strip area in the past seven days include: Joseph and Dorothea B. Belroch, 1418 W. 218th st., garage, \$540.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. H. Cooper, Long Beach, home and garage at 26310 Zephyr ave., Harbor City, \$4,700.

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